

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections that are contained within the Office Action of September 25, 2007 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 39-42 were rejected over prior art. However, these claims have now been canceled, and thus this rejection has been rendered moot. This should not be taken as acquiescence in the positions taken by the Examiner with respect to the applicability of the prior art to such claims, however.

The Examiner rejected claims 36 and 44 as being indefinite. The claim language has been modified slightly to address the concerns raised by the Examiner. It was not Applicants' intention to claim the combination of the substrate holding mechanism together with the polishing table or polishing surface of the table. Rather, it was intended simply to reference the polishing surface of a polishing table. It is respectfully submitted that the language now adopted for both claims 36 and 44 (the through-holes are provided "such that when the substrate is polished temperature-controlled gas flowing through said flow passage is sprayed onto the polishing surface") fully addresses the Examiner's concerns.

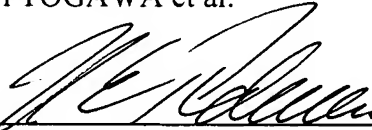
From the above it is respectfully submitted that all the claims which are pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Tetsuji TOGAWA et al.

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Nils E. Pedersen  
Registration No. 33,145  
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/nka  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
January 25, 2008